

SEP 12 1955

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VIA **SEA-MAIL**
(Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO.

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CLASSIFICATION

9 SEP 1955

TO Chief of C
VIA Chief of E
FROM Chief of E

DATE

INFO: Chief, FE

SUBJECT { GENERAL - Operational/STERANT
SPECIFIC - Additional Biographic Information on STERANT-1

REFERENCE: FJBA-5928, dated 22 July 1955

1. Forwarded under separate cover as Enclosure 1 are the results of an interview which [] had with STERANT-1 on 23 August 1955 in response to a verbal request from [] for additional biographic information on the subject, and answers to specific questions which the [] wished answered. In addition one sealed envelope containing a rough draft of a dispatch which had been hand carried to the [] is herewith forwarded as Enclosure 2.
2. In connection with [] request for additional biographic information on STERANT-1 it was suggested that an evaluation by [] of the subject's present and future capabilities would be of value. As a preface to that evaluation the case officer wishes to state that since November 1952 he has been in constant contact with the subject and has come to appreciate his loyal and devoted service to KUBARK. It is further stated that the following evaluation is not in anyway tainted by emotional considerations, the relationship between this agent and [] has always been on the strictest professional level. The following is [] evaluation of STERANT-1:
 - a. Ability: The subject has a wide knowledge of operational tradecraft and can apply the theory and experience he has gained from almost twenty-three years of intelligence activity to any given assignment. Over and above a comprehensive understanding of and ability to use the tools of clandestine operations, the subject commands a vast store of area knowledge, which has been of great assistance to KUBARK in the planning and implementation of projects designed to operate in Manchuria, and Japan. Language-wise the subject can be rated as a native speaker in both Japanese and

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Mongolian. His knowledge of Mandarin is far above the average, his Tungusic and Russian are far from being polished; however, he has a very good working knowledge of these two languages. In English the subject has a good understanding of the written language, but needs improvement in audio-comprehension and oral expression.

b. Reliability: During the case officer's association with the subject there has been only one incident to mar an otherwise perfect record for reliability. (See g. below.) The subject has been most reliable in the transmission of the case officer's instructions to sub-agents and in the day-to-day training of those individuals. The agent's contact reports, financial records, and operational reports have always been on time and in good order. The agent has missed but one contact in the past two and one-half years.

c. Enthusiasm: [] is certain that he has asked the agent to perform tasks which STURANT-1 did not want to do; however, the case officer has never been able to detect anything in the agent's conduct, conversation, or actions which would indicate anything but whole-hearted, enthusiastic cooperation. If the case officer has called upon the agent to give an opinion on a specific operational problem the agent makes his feelings known; however, if the case officer's decision runs counter to the agent's preference or advice he would none-the-less give the problem his cooperation in an enthusiastic manner.

d. Security: There have been occasions when the case officer has had the task of calling STURANT-1 on a point or two re his personal and operational security. Usually when these cases have come up STURANT-1's attitude has always been that of a person who knows the area and the reaction of the people better than the case officer (often very true); however, the case officer has insisted on a more secure approach on several occasions. In every case the agent has faithfully carried out [] instructions. An INVICTUS examination of STURANT-1 (see PJM-3517, dated 25 January 1955) indicated that the agent has been and is now 'clean' in a security sense. True, STURANT-1 has on occasion been a little naive in the choice of his personal friends and in the case of his wife and children did put himself in a position where his personal security might be in danger (see PJM-3786, dated 12 July 1955). The case officer would give this agent an over-all rating of 'good' security-wise.

e. Intelligence: STURANT-1 has never been given a mental or physical aptitude test by this organization, but from the case officer's

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observation of the man and his work he would rate the subject as "more average" in intelligence. STRAIN-1 tends to be rather belligerish with little displayed mechanical ability; however, the subject has mastered this organization's radio procedures and is a fair man on the job. The subject is over forty-five years of age but has not reached the plateau in learning.

2. Adaptability: STRAIN-1 does not adapt himself quickly to a new situation. This statement is meant to be understood in the broadest interpretation — the agent is ill at ease with strangers. He will not give an opinion on any subject or question until he has given it hours, and sometimes days, of consideration and thought. In groups as well as with individuals STRAIN-1 finds it hard to be at ease (this applies to his association with Orientals as well as with Occidentals). Operationally STRAIN-1 can and has adapted himself to new assignments, but here again the case officer would say that it takes time for the agent to "adjusted the change of direction or pace. STRAIN-1 has confidence in himself as long as he feels familiar with the new country from the well-known he tends to falter and is rather timid until he has carefully explored the new surroundings.

3. Dependability: The case officer has never known STRAIN-1 to be untrue in his reporting abilities, or operational activity. In fact no one has the agent ever attempted to damage the case officer. This one case involved an extra-written train which he sold STRAIN-1 for about a year without the case officer's knowledge. The subject has a great deal of personal pride in himself and this very much is reflected in the manner in which he conducts his personal and professional life.

4. Health: As mentioned above STRAIN-1 is forty-five years old, perhaps just a bit past his physical prime; however, during the past two and one-half years the agent has never had any illness more serious than a mild winter cold. While STRAIN-1 was in China in 1953 helping with the training of the Indonesian agents, he participated in all the strenuous activities expected of the foreign man and that any harm to himself, generally, STRAIN-1 is strong of body and has good morale too. The agent is only 6' 1" in height which amounts to about thirty-five inches per day. No one at least has never known the agent to drink intoxicating beverages.

5. Personal Stability: STRAIN-1 has been placed in several extremely difficult situations and has displayed his coolness and stability. The agent is very rational in all of his thinking and in his actions.

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The only weakness, if it can be called a weakness the case officer can point to, is the agent's fear almost, of being wrong. The agent has never displayed any emotion to the extent that it would distort his reason or cause him to lose control of himself. STERANT-1 is always pleasant and congenial with all of his co-workers, who all seem to like the agent very much. For operational reasons STERANT-1 was denied the company of his wife and children for almost six years, but even this personal denial did not influence the agent's emotional stability.

j. Judgments: STERANT-1, being human, has never been one hundred percent correct in all of his value or operational judgments; however, errors made by the agent have usually been based in lack of knowledge rather than in poor judgment. The agent's judgment of people has been far above average and the case officer has come to trust the agent in such judgments. STERANT-1 has many likes and dislikes which sometimes are thrown into the balance of his judgments, but here again the agent is displaying a very basic human trait, which if understood, does not do harm to the evaluation of the man.

k. Motivations: So old and so often used is the statement that an agent's motivation is based in his anti-Communist attitude that it has almost become a KUBARK joke and in regulations we have been all but forbidden to use it; however, this case officer shall. STERANT-1 is strongly anti-Communist in all of his thinking. If a tag must be put to STERANT-1, then let us call him an old-style Japanese Rightist. This orientation is but part, and perhaps a small part, of the subject's motivation. STERANT-1 has an emotional love for Mongolia, KUBARK has made some effort to help Mongolia and STERANT-1 appreciates this fact. A large factor in the agent's motivation is the financial security which this organization has given to both he and his family. STERANT-1 likes to putter around in research and study in his chosen field, which is Mongolia and Manchuria. KUBARK has encouraged this activity and the case officer is certain that STERANT-1 feels that he would not have such a well fed opportunity under different circumstances. STERANT-1 is a Japanese national by birth; he has strong physical and emotional ties with Japan which will perhaps never be broken, yet, these very ties and his inherited and learned Yamato spirit have been exploited to our ends in the past and can continue to be of service in the future. The above are STERANT-1's basic motivations to know them and to understand them is to control the agent.

3. This detachment was also asked by [] to make some statement as to what STERANT-1 could do for KUBARK or for himself. It is this detachment's opinion that the agent could perform tasks within certain fields of study limited to Japan, North China, Manchuria, and Mongolia.

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The subject has more-or-less specialized in the study of the people, language, history, and political developments of these countries. STERANT-1's understanding of these areas and the people therein makes it possible for him to handle operational assignments which necessitates the use of agents in the areas described. Other than operational work STERANT-1 could do very well as a researcher or a writer dealing with subjects related to Japan, North China, Manchuria, and Mongolia. Operational-wise STERANT-1 could successfully compete with other agents in a like category as long as he is allowed to function within the *Areas* described above, and with a minimum of training and orientation STERANT-1 could be readied for an operational assignment in South East Asia or India. With a year or two of study STERANT-1 could probably handle a teaching assignment on the university level, and without any additional study the agent could render valuable service as an advisor on matters concerning these four areas.

4. It is most gratifying to this detachment to learn that at long last there is a possibility that a solution will be found to the vexing problem of STERANT-1's future.

Enclosures:

1. Results of an interview with STERANT-1 in dup - under S/C
2. One sealed envelope
3. Identities in dup. - under separate cover

6 September 1955

Distributions:

3 - w/encls, as noted
1 - w/o encls.
3 - Chief, VE, w/2 cys Encl #1 & #3, w/o Encl #2.

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Joint Cover Mail #1
to FBI - 6596

SFD 141955

RESULTS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH STURANT-1 CONDUCTED BY [REDACTED]

1. Agent's formal education:

Q. What courses of instruction did you receive while you were attending the Osaka National Language School?

A. The school was basically a language school; however, the student's time was split fifty-fifty between language and liberal arts. I studied Mongolian, Chinese Mandarin, Manchurian (Tungusic) and Russian. In addition I was instructed in Japanese history, culture, law, and political theory. Later (during my last two years at the school), I specialized in Mongolian area studies.

Q. What was your class standing?

A. I was either first or second in every subject except Russian. I was never too interested in this subject and did not give it my best effort.

Q. Why did you decide to attend the Osaka National Language School?

A. Actually it was just a young man's whim coupled with a lot of romantic notions about North China and Mongolia.

Q. Did your formal education stop with your graduation from the Osaka Language School?

A. In the sense that I never returned to school, yes. However, all the time I was in Manchuria and Inner Mongolia I spent a portion of each day studying the language and culture of the area in which I was living. You must understand that I soon developed a deep emotional feeling for the Mongolian people and I did everything within my power to learn as much as I could about these people.

Q. How did you go about gathering this knowledge?

A. Well, I always had a room in a dormitory or a small house yet I never lived in my quarters but preferred to live among the Mongolians — I lived in their yurts or houses, ate their food, and absorbed their culture.

Q. Was this sort of activity done at the suggestion of your superiors?

A. No. In fact there were several occasions when one or more of my superiors objected to my attitude toward the Mongolians. I continued to study the area and the people on my own because it satisfied me to do so. The happiest time of my life was spent in Wangyehmiao (1935-1936) where I was a teacher at the military school.

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There I taught young Mongolians Japanese language and Japanese history, at the same time I found that I had an abundance of time which I devoted myself to the study of Mongolian. It was at this time I developed an interest in the political history of Inner Mongolia and Manchuria. I spend many hours studying in this field and discussing both current and past political events with some of the leading Mongolian personalities of the time. After I was transferred to Lushun June 1937 as Chief of that branch of the Manchukuo (TNA) I was fairly busy with my work; however, I found more time to study the country and the people. I believe that I learned more about Manchuria and the Mongolian people during this time than ever before.

Q. After the war did you continue studying in this field?

A. No. After the war my interest was diverted and I did not make much effort to continue studying until I came to Japan in August 1949. After I arrived in Japan I began collecting material on Mongolia and tried to improve my English. In 1954 I attended an English Language school in Yokohama for six months. The course offered four hours of instruction per week in spoken English.

2. SYDNEY's connection with the Chinese Nationalists:

Q. According to your personal history statement you were employed by the Chinese Nationalists in 1946. Would you give me a complete statement regarding this period of your life in China.

A. After I was released for the second time by the Russians in March 1946, I hung around Chang-chun until the end of April. During this period I was not employed, but managed to live off the kindness of several Japanese friends in the area. Around the first of June I was approached by a Mr. WU (fan) (one) who asked if I wanted to work with the Chinese Nationalists? I said that I would be glad to help them if I was capable of doing the work. I was assigned to a unit known as the North East Generalissimo Field Staff, Chang-chun branch. I was puzzled as why the Chinese approached me with an offer of a job in that I had not had any contact with them in the past. Later I learned that a Japanese whom I had met and conversed in, MIAMOTO (fan) (one), an ex-policeman, had recommended me to the organization. I worked for the Chinese Nationalist Generalissimo background material on the Japanese occupation of Manchuria and Mongolia, Mongolian personalities, Mongolian political situation, etc., until the end of July 1946 when I quit. The reason why I quit was two-fold. One, I did not like the Chinese officers I worked with, and two, my salary was cut in the month of July. All in all I did not like working for the Chinese.

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3. STURANT-1's introduction to KUWIN.

Q. How did you first make contact with this organization?

A. After I quit the Chinese I got a job as an undertaker handling bodies of Japanese who had died in the POW and detention camps located in and around Chang-chun. On 16 September 1946 a man introduced himself to me as IDENTITY A and asked me if I would be interested in teaching him Mongolian. I stated that I would be glad to help. In a matter of a few days I met IDENTITY B and started to teach him Mongolian too. IDENTITY B asked me if I would write a Mongolian Who's Who. I agreed and on 30 September submitted my first draft. IDENTITY B seemed pleased with my work and offered me regular employment with IDENTITY C at a monthly salary of US\$75.00. I accepted this offer and was given a regular assignment of supplying information on Mongolia, Mongolia, and the general political situation in Inner Mongolia and Manchuria. Later I learned that IDENTITY A heard of my past connections in Mongolia from refugees from Wangyehmiao whom IDENTITY A had been interviewing.

Q. Did the Chinese Nationalists know that you had accepted employment with KUWIN?

A. While IDENTITY C was in Chang-chun I am sure that the Chinese Nationalists knew that I was working for the unit, but after we left Chang-chun I do not think that they knew.

4. STURANT-1's assignments with KUWIN and KUBARK.

Q. While in Chang-chun did you have any other assignments other than working on background material?

A. Yes. I worked on two intelligence operations. The first was DAMON. I was not the chief agent for this operation, but rather a handy man. DAMON operation was set up to handle a Mongolian (TOKTO) who was sent back to Wangyehmiao to gather information on the Chinese Communists. In February 1947 TOKTO was arrested by the Communists in Wangyehmiao which put an end to operation DAMON. Next I worked on an operation which involved sending a Japanese, MURAKA (fmu) (cna) to Kirin to gather information on the Chinese Communists in that area. Somewhere along the line MURAKA was robbed of all of his money which put an end to this operation.

Q. How long were you in Chang-chun?

A. The IDENTITY C left Chang-chun for Peiping in November 1947. IDENTITY D was merged with the Peiping unit under control of IDENTITY D. IDENTITY B was my case officer.

Later IDENTITY B was my case officer. While I was

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in Peiping I worked with IDENTITY B and IDENTITY E on a stay-behind operation with a Chinese agent. I have forgotten the agent's name. I really was not too active in Peiping.

Q. When did you leave Peiping and what were your next assignments?

A. The entire unit withdrew from Peiping for Shanghai April 1948. While in Shanghai I was not working on any specific operation, but did continue compiling biographic information on mongolians, reading information reports submitted by other agents and commenting on the information which they supplied. In February 1949 we left Shanghai for Canton. In Canton IDENTITY F took over as my case officer. While in Canton I helped with the training of Mongolians who were being prepared as penetration agents, the plan called for sending them back to Inner Mongolia. In June 1949 I left Canton for Tukao. I stayed in Tukao until August 1949. While in Tukao about all I did was baby set with TOBI. On 21 August 1949 I arrived in Yokosuka.

5. STERANT-1's work with KUBARK, since he arrived in Japan, has been well documented in the files of Projects LEBEATRICE, LEBERNICE, STERANT, and STERIMENT.

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Parole Cover Seal #2
to FJRA 6596

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~~IDENTITIES~~

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IDENTITY A is []

IDENTITY B is []

IDENTITY C is RSD #44 (Agent identified this unit)

IDENTITY D is [] (phonetic)

IDENTITY E is []

IDENTITY F is []

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ASO Tatsuo
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SEP 12 1955

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VIA _____
(Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. _____

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9 SEP 1955

TO Chief of []
VIA Chief of []
FROM Chief of []

DATE _____

INFO: Chief, PG

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SPECIFIC - Additional Biographic Information on STURANT-1

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NUMBER